

Floor Statement of Rep. Tulsi Gabbard
Safe Climate Caucus
February 26, 2013

Mr. Speaker, the effects of the sequester are broad and far reaching. Up to 2,600 NOAA employees expect to be furloughed and 2,700 positions not filled, which will affect managing our natural resources and our ability to address climate change.

Climate change is real. According to the Pacific Island Regional Climate Assessment, across the Pacific Islands region, the frequency and intensity of climate extremes are changing. Hawaii is usually thought of as a lush green paradise, but droughts have been more frequent and prolonged.

For example, earlier this month, the Big Island of Hawaii was declared a natural disaster area due to ongoing extreme drought conditions going back to July of 2008.

This is causing havoc for our farmers and ranchers. Waikiki, a highly visited and well-known treasure around the world, would be wetlands with beaches gone by the end of the century.

We must take action. We cannot afford to ignore this problem that is currently and will continue to wreak havoc across the globe for generations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.